No. 14,677.

WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1900-SIXTEEN PAGES.

TWO CENTS.

## WAITING ON ROBERTS

London Expects to Hear Soon of Fall of Bloemfontein.

## FIGHTING MAY BE IN PROGRESS

Free State Capital Will Be Removed to Kroonstadt.

COL. PLUMER AT LOBATSI

LONDON, March 14 .- A few bours should bring important dispatches from Lord Roberts. No word has come from Bloemfontein today, aithough sharp fighting is believed to have occurred since the commander-inchief was last heard of. London confidently expects the occupation of the Orange Free State capital will occur today, as previous ly forecasted.

In the meanwhile attention turns to Mafeking. That hamlet of the plains can carcely hold out much longer. The news of Col. Piumer's approach has given sub-stance to the rumors of its relief, but those best informed are inclined to think the relief is more likely to be accomplished by Col. Peakman's column from Kimberley. Private advices have set forth that Col. Plumer had almost given up hope of accomplishing anything more than harassing the Boers, though since these were written It is possible that the diminished numbers of the investing forces may have rendered Plumer's task more feasible.

Judging from the lack of news everything is quiet in Natal, while from Herschel comes the statement that the total collapse of the insurgent colonists is imminent,

#### Cronje to Go to St. Helena.

Gen. Cronje, according to a Cape Town special, sails for St. Helena March 15, acmpanied by all the Paardeberg prisoners. Cecil Rhodes is suffering from catarrh of the stomach and is unable to sail for Eng-

Natal dispatches recount the greatest satisfaction felt there at Lord Salisbury's reply to the Boer president's peace over-

A dispatch from Pietermaritzburg, pub lished in the second edition of the Times, says: "The raply, especially the last paragraph, relating to independence, has been received in Natal with a feeling of great relief and is dispelling all doubts.

A private dispatch from Johannesburg has been received in London, dated Satur day. March 10, contradicting the reports that the mines are flooded and all the ma chinery broken, and asserting that all !

### BOER STORY OF FIGHTING.

British Reported to Have Lost Heavily Last Saturday. PRETORIA, Tuesday, March 13,-A dis-

patch from Bioemfontein says that in view of the military situation the seat of gov Commander Delarey's report of the fight at Abraham's Kraal Saturday says:

The British were estimated to number 40,000 men. Their first assault was repulsed. Only two Boers were wounded. The second assault was made on the hills to the left of our position. These hills wer of great strategic importance. Appreciating this, I and 300 men defended the position from 9 o'clock in the morning until sundown. The burghers fought Every attempt to storm was defeated, sundown there were not fifty yards t tween us. The British lost heavily, a securate returns of our loss are available

### HOSTILITY TO THE QUEEN. Manifested at a Meeting of the Dublin

DUBLIN, March 14.—At a meeting of the corporation this afternoon the lord mayor moved that an address be presented to the welcoming her to the capital city of her kingdom in Ireland. His speech was frequently interrupted by the occupants of the public gallery. Alderman Meade, in the midst of hostile

demonstrations from the gallery, seconded

Mr. Timothy Harrington, M. P., protested

Mr. Timothy Harrington, M. P., protested against the resolution.

After repeated scenes and uproar, during which the lord mayor threatened to clear the gallery, an amendment was most did the proposed address, but the lord mayor ruled the amendment out of order.

A division on the lord mayor's amendment was taken amidst much excitement, the occupants of the gallery groaning at every one supporting the motion and cheering its opponents vigorously. ing its opponents vigorously.

The resolution was carried by a majority of eight.

LOBATSI, Thursday, March 8.—Colonel Plumer's force reached here Tuesday, March 6. It is believed that only a single bridge southward has been destroyed, and that otherwise the railroad is intact with in five miles of Mafeking. Colonel Plumer has already dispersed several Boer police pests in the neighborhood, and is actively pushing his advance southward. CAPE TOWN, March H.-Colonel Plumer is now within forty miles of Mafeking.

### MRS. HEARST'S LIBERALITY.

She Will Foster Explorations in Field of Archaeology. SAN FRANCISCO, March 14.-President

Wheeler has announced to the regents of the University of California that experts of acknowledged repute have been engaged to make excavations and explorations in parts of the world rich with reites of anlearning. The entire expense of the work will be borne by Mrs. Phoebe A

In Egypt Dr. George A. Resiner will hav charge of the explorations. Dr. Uhle will pursue investigations in South America and

pursue investigations in South America and Vucatan. California, New Mexico and old Mexico will be searched for specimens by Dr. Philip Milis Jones.

Dr. Alfred Emerson, recently professor in the Athens school of archaeology, is now on his way to this state to confer with Mrs. Hearst in regard to the work in Greece and Etrufa. The materials collected by the scientists will be placed in the archaeological museum to be established at Berkeley.

#### ROYALTY DINES CHEAPLY. Prince and Princess of Wales at Pool

Man's Restaurant. LONDON, March 14.-The Prince and Princess of Wales paid a surprise visit to day to the new poor man's restaurant in the East End started by Sir Thomas Lipton's Alexandra trust. Their royal high-nesses purchased tickets for dinner at 4½ pence (10 cents) and each of them partook of the ordinary fare. The prince and prin-cess afterward inspected the premises and received an ovation from throngs of work-

Foers Wanted the United States to Act as Mediator.

The President Expressed His Willing ness to Do Anything to End the War.

The reply of Lord Salisbury to the message from Presidents Kruger and Steyn, which was transmitted through our government, was received at a late hour night by Secretary Hay, through Mr. White, our charge at London. As already indicated in the London dispatches, the answer is a declination of the appeal. It has en transmitted to Mr. Adelbert Hay. United States consul at Pretoria, who will submit it to the two presidents. This act marks the end of the first overture towar peace. It is believed here, however, that another effort will soon be made by th Boers to attain peace, though recourse may be had to some other agency than the United States.

The President decided that it is not proper now to make public the text of the mmunications which have passed between Pretoria, London and Washington relative to the peace proposition. Therefore the Allen resolution, adopted by the Senate Allen resolution, adopted by the Senate, calling for the correspondence, must remain unanswered for the present, though there is reason to believe the cause for maintaining secrecy on that point will soon disappear. It is admitted, however, that the press dispatches have indicated the salient features of the correspondence with sufficient accuracy. About the only omission, so far as can be learned, was the failure to develop the fact that the appeal of the Boer government that the United States might be allowed to intervene was accompanied by an earnest expression by President McKinley of his willingness to do anything within his power to bring about the termination of the war, which he hoped might be attained. Lord Salisbury's reply, while firmly declining the request of the might be attained. Lord Salisbury's reply while firmly declining the request of the Eoer government, conveyed his apprecia-tion of the commendable sentiments which inspired the President's utterances, and closed that phase of the correspondence in some contracts a manner as to make the

courteous a manner as to ma eclination entirely unexceptionable. Inasmuch as there appears to be some confusion in the public mind respecting the various efforts made by the Boers to end the war it may be stated that the particular correspondence passing through the State Department was separate and apart from the note addressed by Presidents Krufrom the note addressed by Presidents Kru-ger and Steyn to nearly all the continental powers believed to be in sympathy with their cause, and was also distinct from the appeal addressed directly to Lord Salisbury by the two presidents, which, with his lord-ship's answer, formed the subject of the communication made yesterday by him to parliament.

#### Comment of the London Globe. LONDON, March 14.-Regarding the

nited States offer the Globe says:
"The incident is of interest only in the ight it throws on American politics. Republicans and democrats alike are always prepared to risk the friendship of England orepared to risk the friendship of England in the party game. We may preserve aminable relations with the United States, and tis to be hoped we always shall do so, but in alliance is impossible. We were brought to the verge of war four years ago for the take of Mr. Cleveland's re-election, and a pretext for a diplomatic quarrel will never be wanting when the anti-English elements of the republic have to be conciliated."

# CLOTHING AND EQUIPAGE.

Articles Being Shipped to Manila for the Use of the Troops. The War Department has Issued a statement showing that the following articles of clothing and equipage are now being shipped to Manila by the quartermaster's partment for the use of the troops in the hilippines during the ensuing six months: Ten thousand waist belts, 5,000 blankets, 1,000 bed sacks, 10,000 linen collars, 75,000 pairs of nankeen drawers, 26,000 pairs jean drawers, 3,600 pairs leather gauntlets, 50,000 campaign hats, 10,000 D. B. flannel shirts, 50,000 chambray shirts, 70,000 pairs leggins. 100,525 pairs russet shoes, 50,000 pairs 100,525 pairs russet shoes, 50,000 pairs black calfskin shoes, 200,000 pairs cotton stockings, 150,000 khaki coats, 172,000 pairs khaki trousers, 75,000 nankeen shirts, 25,000 cotton undershirts, 12,000 corn brooms, 8,000 scrubbing brushes, 5,000 barrack chairs, 50 post flags, 1,000 storm flags, 500 whistles, 500 camp kettles, 1,000 common tents, 500 conical tents, 200 hospital tents and 72,000 hat cords.

# TO MEET HERE MARCH 27.

commission will convene in this city on the

Judge Taft Notifies Associates on the New Philippine Commission. Judge Taft, president of the new Philip pine commission, has written his fellow ommissioners to the effect that the new

Judge Taft's resignation of his judicial office takes effect tomorrow. It had been supposed that the new commission would It is probable that the task of closing his affairs preparatory to a long ab-re from the United States has made it essary for Judge Taft to defer the first ting until the 27th instant. Meanwhile old commission is winding up its affairs

## ALABAMA PUBLIC LANDS

Proposition to Sell 25,000 Acres for

Educational Purposes. Mr. E. M. Shackelford, principal of the Normal College (white) of Troy, Ala., and W. D. Paterson, principal of the Normal Colored School of Montgomery, Ala., are in the city in the interest of securing legislation appropriating 25,000 acres of the publie lands of Alabama for each of the educational institutions they represent, this land to be sold and the fund derived from it to be held perpetually, and the interest derived from it used for the purposes of

A subcommission of the industrial com mission, consisting of Senator Daniel, Representative Lorimer, Messrs. Phillips, A. L. Harris, Farquhar, Conger, Kennedy and Clarke, will meet in Chicago next Monday morning, when they will hear testimony on industrial questions in the city of Chicago

# Return of Secretary Root.

Word was received at the War Departnent today that Secretary Root and party will start home from Havana next Saturday, coming by way of Charleston, over Atlantic Coast Line. The transport Sedgwick will probably be utilized in the trip to Charleston. The party is expected to arrive in Washington Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning.

#### A Monument to Women Mr. Penrose today introduced a bill in he Senate appropriating \$5,000 for the erec-

tion of a monument in the National ceme-tery at Arlington in honor of the women who served as nurses during the late war Mr. Harry P. Godwin, who for many years was a well-known resident of Wash-

ington, is critically ill at his home in Bridgeport, Conn.

Proceedings in Suit Against Contractors for Street Sweeping.

ANSWER OF THE DEFENDANTS FILED

The Charges of Non-Performance of Contract Denied.

COUNSELADDRESS THE COURT

Hearing was begun this afternoon before Justice Barnard, in Equity Court No. 2, in connection with the proceedings for injuncion and the appointment of a receiver in stituted Monday by the Fidelity and Deosit Company of Maryland against Albert Daggett and Michael A. Dugan, who are he contractors for cleaning the streets of this city. The action, it will be remembered, is based on the alleged grounds of non-performance of contract for sweeping the streets, and the defendants' alleged failure to pay for materials and labor sup-plied in that work, whereby, it is stated, liability is sought to be imposed upon the complainant company, which is surety on the contractors' bond.

The reading of the bill of complaint and the answer thereto consumed an hour. Counsel then addressed the court. Attorneys J. J. Hemphill and Arthur Peter appear for the complainant, while Attorneys Jere Wilson and A. A. Hoehling, jr., represent the defendants.

The hearing was in progress when this report closed.

Answer of the Defendants. The answer of the defendants, Albert Daggett and Michael A. Dugan, to the complaint of the Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland was filed this afternoon by Attorneys J. M. Wilson and A. A. Hochling. jr., their solicitors. After admitting the exstence of the street sweeping contract, and that the complainant became surety upon their bond, they deny that they have failed at any time since the commencement of the work under their contract to perform the ame in accordance with its specifications. same in accordance with its specifications. In reference to the charges that they failed to pay their laborers, the defendants declare that there were only two occasions on which there was any delay in raying off the men—July 21 and November 17, 1890. In the first case the voucher due and payable July 15 for work done by the defendants from July 1 to July 15 was temporarily withheld by the District, and thereby there was a delay in paying off the men. This matter, they declare, was satisfactorily adjusted at once, and the work was re-This matter, they declare, was satisfactorily adjusted at once, and the work was resumed by the employes after an absence of one day. The other case was due, they state, to a misunderstanding on the part of a portion of their employes, owing to the fact that the defendants did not receive the noney due from the District on November 15, and it was thereupon claimed by certain employes that their pay should finclude the day or days intervening between the 18th and the actual date of payment by the Listrict. Only a portion of the men were absent one day, and they resumed work upon the matter being explained to them.

Matter Satisfactorily Settled

they were cited by the District to show cause why the contract should not be suspended and others employed to do the work, the allegation being that the work was not being performed according to specifications. The defendants claim that all matters of difference were adjusted and settled whereby the incident was closed ind, so far as they are advised, no charg has been made by the District since that street sweeping contract. They furtheny that they have falled to thoroug dean the streets in the last two weeks,

Matter Satisfactorily Settled.

time, or by any one acting in its behalf especting the manner of performance by defendants of work required under the clean the streets in the last two weeks, or have failed to properly provide sweepers with bags or bag carriers, or that the sup-erintendent of streets has warned them that they were violating their contract in that respect. On the contrary, they say that in doing the work a large number of bags are used which, from time to time, wear out, and have to be replaced by others; that recently, to replace worn-out bags, they bought and paid for 300, but there was a delay in one day of their de-livery, and that during that time the super-intendent of street sweepers mentioned the ntendent of street sweepers mentioned the matter to the defendants' superintendent

#### nd upon having it explained to him wa entirely satisfied. Admit Indebtedness.

Defendants admit being indebted to the Austen and Western Company and the Na tional Broom and Brush Company for material, but say each purchase was made upon credit, and that while payments have not been made they have expected, and still expect, to make satisfactory adjustsim expect, to make satisfactory adjust-ment and payment of the amounts so due. Continuing in this connection the answer says the defendants deny that either of the said creditors has made any threats to the defendants to enter suit for the collec-tion of said amounts, but they are advised that complainant has denied to each of said creditors any liability under the bond aforreditors any liability under the bond afore said for either of the amounts; but that while denying such liability, complainant, as defendants are advised, immediately prior to the filing of this bill, requested the attorney for the creditors named in the paragraph, to immediately enter suits against it under the said bond, to recover the amount of their respective claims, with the further statement made by complainant in that connection that it wished to prevent the payment of moneys by the District due on the 15th of the present month."

Defendants declare this was attempted for the purpose of bringing about a default on their part to meet their pay roll and other current expenses under their contract. said for either of the amounts; but tha

# Denial of Allegations.

The allegations of the complainant's bill that the defendants have numerous judgments pending against them; that they of either of them is insolvent; that their horses, carts and other articles necessary to performing their contract are in danger to performing their contract are in danger of being levied upon, are all denied categorically and at length, as well as the charge that irreconcilable differences exist between the defendants, are denied. The respondent Dugan also denies the allegation that he stated his intention to apply for a receiver to take charge of the contract. The defendants deny any intention to appropriate the \$2,800 due March 15 to their own use, as alleged.

to appropriate the \$2.800 due March 15 to their own use, as alleged.

The defendants further declare that they will suffer a loss of several thousand dollars on the contract by reason of the fact that they became indebted to one Herbert P. Pillsbury, and not Edwin H. Pillsbury, as averred in complainants' bills, in the sum of \$2.800 for feed furnished to horses, and, being unable to pay him the amount, had agreed with him to give him a bill of sale for the property used by them in the work on their contract, and would renew the same every twenty days thereafter until the completion of the contract, he meantime continuing to furnish all feed necessary. This bill of sale was duly executed on March 10, states the answer, and duly delivered to Pillsbury, but by agreement was not placed on record. was not placed on record.

The usual demurrers then follow and the customary prayer that the recent restraining order be vacated and the cause dis-

# ENGLAND'S REPLY RECEIVED THE HEARING BEGUN A BOND CIRCULAR AT THE WHITE HOUSE DISTRICT IN CONGRESS

Issued by the Secretary of the Treasury This

How Exchanges May Be Made Under the Provisions of the New Bitt.

Immediately after the signing of the financial bill by President McKinley today Secretary Gage issued a circular "to holder of United States 5 per cent bonds of the act of January 14, 1875, 4 per cent consols of 1907, acts of July 14, 1870, and January 20, 1871, and 3 per cent bonds of 1908, act of June 13, 1898."

The Secretary quotes the provisions of the new bill authorizing the exchange of these bends for 2 per cents of the new issue and then describes how the change can be made. He says:

#### To Effect the Exchange.

"To effect the exchange, the oustanding onds should be surrendered to the Secretary of the Treasury in accordance with the erms of this circular; they will be accepted for that purpose in the order of the surender of them to him, and new bonds bearing interest at the rate of 2 per centum per annum will be issued in the same order in lieu thereof. A letter of transmittal should accompany each package of bonds for exchange, setting forth the purpose for which they are forwarded and giving the address to which the new bonds and checks

which they are torwarded and giving the address to which the new bonds and checks for the interest thereon shall be sent.

"Bonds, held by the treasurer of the United States in trust for a national bank, may be surrendered by letter addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury, accompanied with the treasurer's receipt representing the bonds, together with a resolution of the board of directors of the bank, authorizing the treasurer to assign the bonds.

"The priority of issue of the new bonds will be determined by the date of the receipt by the Secretary of the Treasury of the outstanding bonds or the papers representing the same, provided that the bonds or papers are in proper condition for such surrender as set forth hereafter in this circular. If any correction is required, the priority of the bonds to be issued will take date from the receipt and acceptance of corrected bonds or papers at this office.

Registered Bonds.

#### Registered Bonds.

"Any registered bonds forwarded should be assigned to the Secretary of the Treasury for exchange into 2 per centum bonds "Registered bonds inscribed in the name of an institution, forwarded for exchange, nust be accompanied by a resolution of the board of directors of the institution, authorizing their assignment to the Secretary of the Treasury for such exchange. The resolution must bear the seal of the institution, or, if the institution have no seal, there must be furnished with the resolution an affidavit setting forth that fact.
"Upon acceptance of any bonds for exchange under the conditions of this circular

change under the conditions of this circular the present worth of the surrendered bonds to yield an income of 2½ per centum per annum will be calculated as of the date of their acceptance, except as provided in the next paragraph, and the sunr perpresenting the difference between the present worth of said bonds and their par value will be paid to the owner thereof in due course by a check drawn in his favor by the treasurer of the United States.

"The settlement will include payment by the department of accrued interest on the old bonds to the date of their acceptance for exchange and a charge against the owner for accrued interest on the new bonds from the date of their issue to said date of acceptance. Bonds surrendered than which interest has been received.

bonds from the date of their issue to said date of acceptance. Bonds surrendered upon which interest has been prepaid need not be accompanied by a deposit to cover such prepaid interest, as the department will deduct at the time of the settlement any amount which may be due on account of unmatured interest which had been prepaid.

"The new bonds will be dated April 1, 1900; therefore all outstanding bonds surrendered for exchange and accepted for that purpose prior to that date will bear interest to April 1, when interest on the new bonds will begin; and the present worth of such surrendered bonds will be calculated as of the said April 1. The new tends will be issued in denominations as follows: Coupon, \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000. Registered, \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000, \$10,-000, \$50,000.

"All bonds forwarded for exchange will be regarded as the property of the person, firm or institution in whose favor the new bonds are to be issued, and in each case the check in settlement of the 'present worth,' ctc., above referred to, will be drawn in favor of such person, firm or institution; but, if the agent forwarding the bonds shall desire, and so request, the bonds and the check may be forwarded to such agent's address for delivery to the owner. "Packages containing bonds for surrender, or papers representing bonds held by the treasurer of the United States in trust for a national bank, should be addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury, Division of Loans and Currency, Washington, D. C., and be plainly marked 'Bonds (or papers) for exchange."

"In exercise of the discretion given to the Secretary of the Treasury under section 11 of the act he reserves the right to suspend the exchange of bonds above contemplated whenever, in his opinion, the interests of the government may be best served thereby. The Secretary of the Treasury also rserves the right to change the terms of exchange above set forth either by respect to the secretary of the Treasury also rserves the right to change the terms of exchange above set forth either by respect to the secretary of the pressury also rserves the right to change the terms of exchange above set forth either by respect to the secretary of the treasury also rserves the right to change the terms of exchange above set forth either by respect to the secretary of the treasury also rserves the right to change the terms of exchange above set forth either by respect to the secretary of the treasury also rserves the right to change the terms of exchange above set forth either by respect to the secretary of the treasury also rserves the right to change the terms of exchange above set forth either by respect to the secretary of the treasury also rserves the right to change the terms of exchange above set forth either by respect to the secretary of the treasury also rserves the right to change the terms of the secretary of the treasury also rserves the right to change the terms of the secretary of the treasury also rserves the right to change the terms of the secretary of the secretary t c., above referred to, will be drawn in

hereby. The Secretary of the Treasur ilso recryes the right to change the term of exchange above set forth, either by requiring a bonus or premium upon the 2 p cent bonds or by requiring the holders bonds outstanding to surrender the same exchange for the new bonds at a rate yield income of more than 2% per cent p annum."

### PENSION FRAUDS DETECTED. Record of Prosecutions Received by

The following record of criminal prosecutions has been received by the pension of-

Jennie Desouzer, alias Ramsey, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment in the Stillwater, Minn., penitentiary, and to pay a fine of \$50 by Judge William Lochren, she having been convicted on a charge of perjury in connection with her claim for

United States Commissioner J. L. Adler, at Cincinnati, committed Daniel Lewis and Leonard Gants to jail in default of \$500 ond to await the action of the United States grand jury on a charge of perjury in connection with Daniel Lewis claim for pension. Joseph Drake, also charged with having committed perjury in connection with the claim, was held for a preliminary beauting.

nearing.

Frederick J. Seymour, alias Gardiner, was ndicted by the United States grand jury Indicted by the United States grand jury at Chicago, charged with committing perjury in connection with the claim of Julia Hardy. Julia Hardy, the pensioner, was indicted for the same offense.

William Bohn was indicted by the United States grand jury at Chicago, charged with post-dating pension vouchers.

# Wants More Clerks.

The Secretary of the Treasury has for-Senate a communication of Mr. Morris, auditor for the War Departnent, requesting that an appropriation of \$2.944.40 be made for the purpose of increasing his clerical force. He states that during the last two months his force has been reduced by nine clerks, owing to the lack of appropriation, this reduction causing him much inconvenience.

Conferences Held on the Porto Rican Tariff Bill.

SENATORS ALLISON AND SPOONER

Both Talk With the President for Some Time.

NO RESULT REACHED

Two long conferences as to the Porto Rican bill were held at the White House this morning. Senator Allison, chairman of the Senate roublican caucus and member of the steering committee, spent a long time with the President. Later Senator Spooner, likewise a member of the steering committee, and recognized as one of the foremost of the administration leaders, was with the President nearly an hour.

Senators Elkins, Scott and Penrose were others who saw the President, but the chief executive's desires as to the Porto Rican bill were intrusted to Senators Allison and Spooner. These two also put before the President the strong fight made in the Senate against the bill as it came from the House, and told him of the difficulties and complications which beset the path of the

No Definite Understanding Reached. The two long conferences with the President did not result, it is declared, in any understanding definite enough to warrant a prediction as to the outcome. The President stands by his position that the proposed tariff is so small as to amount to no tariff at all, but he counsels harmony and unity above anything else. Personally he will accept any solution which will leave oom for a test case as to the right of Congress to impose independent tariff rates on the new possessions. A test case must be had. The President has no arbitrary views on the subject of the exact amount of duty to be fixed so long as it is sufficient to give the courts a case on which to render a final and complete decision.

The opinion of several senators was that The opinion of several senators was that he most favored amendments before the Senate are those which admit American

goods to Porto Rico free and charge a duty on goods coming to this country from the island. The opinion was strong that the bill will contain these amendments when it passes both houses and reaches the President. Talking Over England's Attitude. Secretary Hay was at the White House at 9:30 o'clock this morning and found President McKinley in his office waiting for him. The conference lasted nearly thirty The Secretary appeared to have improved from his indisposition of yester-day. The authoritative statement can be made that the attitude of Great Britain to the indirect representations made to her by this country at the request of the Boer government was exactly what was ex-pected by Secretary Hay and State Depart-ment officials. It is generally predicted in cabinet circles

that the incident is closed, and that it will be the only connection which this country will have to the war in South Africa. Collector of Customs at Toledo. Ex-Representative F. B. De Witt of Paulding county, Ohio, saw the President this morning. Mr. De Witt is the most prominent of a dozen candidates for colector of customs at Toledo. He lives fifty miles away, but the republicans of that e of Toledo look upon th ectorship as a position which belongs to the entire district. The fight over the place has been hard and fast. Five or six of the ave conferred with Senators Foraker and Hanna, who will virtually fill the place, in

asmuch as the man selected by them will receive the nomination. It is now thought the nomination will be It is now thought the nomination will be made in a few days, and the expectation is that Mr. De Witt will be the successful candidate. For many years he was an earnest, loyal supporter of Senator Foraker, and has been on good terms with Senator Hanna. His relations with the President are also most pleasant.

Whatever the decision arrived at, there are sure to be some sore spots left. Nearly all of the candidates are men of influence in the party, and the prize contended for is

in the party, and the prize contended for is one which will not be relinquished without some bitterness.

## Today's Nominations.

The President today sent the following nominations of postmasters to the Senate: Maine, E. A. Fairfield, Kennebunk. Massa chusetts, Asa B. Fay, Northborough. New R. S. Snyder, Atlantic Highlands Louis D. Gallison, Orange, New York, Jas. Louis D. Gallison, Orange. New York, Jas. Fox. St. Johnsville; Ebenezer Evans, Waterville. \*Ohlo, Wm. A. Coble, Delphos Kentucky, Jesse K. Freeman, Central City. Michigan, W. H. White, Decatur. Minnesota, Eva Kalser, Bemidji; C. H. Pierce, Northfield, Nebraska, H. H. Whitfield, Peru; T. J. Taylor, Wilber. North Carolira, A. L. McCaskill, Fayetteville. North Dakota E. K. Mybre. Valley City. Indian Dakota, E. K. Myhre, Valley City. India: territory, James E. Elliott, Duncan. Colo rado, C. B. Chrysler, Delta, California, F L. Glass, Martinez.

## The Financial Bill Signed.

Just before I o'clock this afternoon Presi dent McKinley signed the financial bill. making important changes in the financial system of the country.

The bill, printed on parchment, was taken to the White House by Representative Overstreet of Indianapolis. Mr. Overstreet introduced the bill in the House and was in charge of it at various stages through that

body.

Mr. Overstreet took with him a gold pen set in a gold staff, the top of which was pearl. The bill was signed with this pen. "The gold standard bill was signed by a gold pen bought from Goldsmith," said Mr. Overstreet later. Overstreet later.

When the President was appending his grature he remarked as a coincidence

When the President was appending his signature he remarked, as a coincidence, that nearly all the important financial legislation of the country had been signed on the 14th of the month. The refunding act was signed on July 14, 1870, the resumption act on January 14, 1875, and the Sherman act on July 14, 1895.

The President did not read the bill over, merely asking Mr. Overstreet if care had been taken to see that nothing had been left out.

The gold pen will be presented to Mr. H. H. Hanna of Indianapolis. Mr. Overstreet said that a great deal was due to Mr. Hanna in the passage of the bill.

Bank Cashier's Sentence Commuted.

Bank Cashier's Sentence Commuted.

President McKinley has commuted the sentence of William Steele, the cashier of the defunct Chestnut Street National Bank of Philadelphia. The failure of this bank was one of the heaviest in Anancial history in the country, and created a sensation Steele was tried on the charge of aiding and abetting in allowing !!legal loans, was convicted and sentenced to six years and six months in the Eastern (Pa.) Penitentiary. A petition asking his pardon was recently circulated and was recommended by the judge and district atterns. recently circulated and was recommended by the judge and district attorney. The President was asked to grant the pardon on the ground that Steele was only tech-nically guilty, and was not the real cul-prit in the misdeeds of the bank officials. As commuted, Steele will be released from prison June 19.

Favorable Reports Ordered by the House District Committees.

The New Insurance Bill - Wesley Heights Railway Company

The House District committee today favorably reported the new insurance bill (H. R. 9283) which has been prepared by the Commissioners. The bill provides regulations for the conduct of insurance business in the District, and has been published in The Star heretofore. No amendments were nade to the Commissioners' recommenda-

#### tions by the committee.

May Become Sureties. A favorable report was also made on bill 9143, providing as follows: "That any company now authorized or which may hereafter be authorized by act of Congress to do an insurance business in the District of Columbia, having a paid-up capital of or Columbia, having a paid-up capital of not less than \$250,000, may engage in a security, guaranty and indemnity business; and where by law two or more sureties are required upon any obligation which said company is authorized to insure it may act as sole surety thereon, and may be accepted by the court or other officer or person authorized to approve the sufficiency of any bond or undertaking."

Wesley Heights Railway Company. A favorable report was ordered on House olll 7502 to incorporate the Wesley Heights Railway Company. The bill provides as felows:

That M. C. Butler, John T. Arms, Thos. E. Waggaman, Dr. Henry D. Fry and John F. Waggaman of the city of Washington, District of Columbia, their associates and ssigns, be created a body corporate un-

assigns, be created a body corporate under the name of "The Wesley Heights Railway Company."

The company is authorized to construct and operate a street railway for carrying passengers, parcels, milk, truck and other freight along the following-named reute: Beginning on Prospect avenue at the Union passenger station of the Capital Traction Company: thence westerly along Prospect atenue and Prospect avenue extended to a point near the east side of Arizona avenue, or for the distance or any portion thereof on a route coinciding with the route of the Washington and Great Falls Electric Railway; thence on property to be acquired by the company to Arizona avenue; thence northerly along with the route of the Washington and Great Falls Electric Railway; thence on property to be acquired by the company to Arizona avenue: thence northerly along Arizona avenue to a projected avenue running northwest through the intersection of 45th and Galveston streets; thence along that projected avenue to 45th street; thence north on 45th street to Lowell street; thence west on Lowell street to and into an extension of the projected avenue; thence northwest on a proposed highway the company shall acquire a right of way, not less than thirty feet wide, in the center thereof; and all rights of way acquired within the lines of a proposed highways shall be dedicated to the use of the public before a permit is issued for the construction of the railway therein; provided, further, that where the route is along a road less than sixty-six feet in width before a permit is issued for the construction of the railroad therein.

The motive power shall be electricity, and if the trolley system is used a return wire of equal capacity to the feed wire and similarly insulated must be provided, and each car shall be equipped with a double trolley. No portion of the electrical circuit shall, under any circumstances, be allowed to pass through the earth, and neither pole of any dynamo furnishing power to the line shall be grounded.

To Quitclaim Johanna Hlock.

To Quitclaim Johanna Block. bill 5140, providing that the Secretary of the Interior be authorized and directed to release and quitclaim to Johanna C. Block her heirs and assigns forever, all the right, title and interest, whether legal or equita ble, of the United States of America to lot ole, of the United States of America to lot numbered 1 in square 1113, upon the pay-ment by Johanna C. Biock of such a sum as the Secretary of the Interior shall been just and equitable: Provided, That Johanna C. Block pay to the proper officer of the District of Columbia all taxes here-offers assessed against the columbia. tofore assessed against the property, both general and special, now unpaid and stand-

#### RESULT OF HAGUE CONFERENCE. Belief Expressed That the Agreements

ng against the property.

Will Amount to Nothing. In diplomatic circles here an unpleasant suggestion has been thrown out to the effect that The Hague conference has resulted in a complete failure and that even the imited program agreed upon will never be perfected. It is learned that the basis for this view is the fact that up to this moment it is not known officially that a single ne of the powers represented in the conference has ratified the three conventions prepared there. The treaties themselves require that each of the participants in the onference shall be notified whenever the other parties ratify the conventions. Up to this time no such notice has reached this country as to any other country. So far as the United States government is concerned, only one of the three treaties has been ratified by the Senate, and even in that case the formalities have not been carried to completion. It is probable, however, that the appearance at Washington of the newly appointed minister from the Netherlands, bringing with him the official copies of the conventions, may result in copies of the conventions, may result in further action by the United States upon

# CALLED AT WAR DEPARTMENT.

State Militia Officers Paid Their Re-spects to the Officials.

The adjutant generals of the various states now in this city endeavoring to secure an increased appropriation from Con gress called at the War Department today, nder the escort of Gen. Harries of the Dis trict militia, and paid their respects to Acting Secretary Meiklejohn, Gen. Miles and Adjt. Gen. Corbin, after which they partook of luncheon at the Army and Navy Club as the guests of Gen. Harries.

### THE FRENCH TREATY. rance Willing to Extend the Time

Allowed for Ratification. The State Department has been advised ormally of the willingness of the French government to extend the period of time allowed for the ratification of the pending French reciprocity treaty. In the absence

of an agreement of that kind the treaty would fail completely on the 24th instant through the emission of the necessary rati-

has not yet been arranged. Movements of Naval Vessels.

#### The Marblehead, which was ordered back o San Fran cisco on account of a breakdown in her machinery, sailed yesterday San Diego to Santa Barbara The Yankton has sailed from Gibara for

Nuevitas.
The Alliance has sailed from Trinidad for Santa Cruz.
The coiller Alexander was put out of commission today at Norfolk.

# THE ROAD TO FORTUNE.

The Road to Fortune is through Printer's Ink .- P. T. Barnum.

# THE DISTRICT BILL

Local Appropriation Measure Up in the House.

### GENERAL DEBATE TO END TODAY

Its Provisions Fully Explained by Mr. Grout.

QUESTIONS ASKED

The District of Columbia appropriation bill was taken up for consideration in the House in committee of the whole today, with Mr. Sherman of New York in the

Mr. Grout of Vermont was in charge of the bill and Mr. Allen controlled the time for the minority.

At the outset Mr. Richardson wanted time to enable the democrats to make some campaign speeches on the bill. Mr. Grout shied at this proposition. He hoped, he said, the democrats would reserve their steam and expend it upon the army bill, which is coming along next. This was just a plain, business bill, and it ought to go

quickly. Mr. Richardson insisted upon his side having ample time to talk.

#### Couldn't Contain Himself.

"Can't you contain yourselves until the army bill comes on?" asked Mr. Grout. "Can't do it, I'm told." Mr. Richardson replied, amid laughter on the democratic

"Well, then, how little time can you get dong with?" asked Mr. Grout.

along with?" asked Mr. Grout,
Mr. Richardson thought a day and a half
at least would be required.
Mr. Grout thought that was too much
time, Couldn't they manage with one day
and let the consideration of the bill commence after the reading of the journal tomorrow?
No. 2 o'clock tomorrow would be as early
as they could finish. So finally, after much
dickering, in which Mr. Grout offered to
yie'd the republican time, it was agreed to
end general debate today.

### The Bill Explained.

Mr. Grout then explained the bill. He took up first the electric light paragraph and said the committee had left the rate the same as in the last bill. He said that Mr. Crosby's electric light company had claimed in the last Congress that service claimed in the last Congress that service could be furnished profitably at the rates fixed. Since then Mr. Crosby's company had consolidated, and although a protest has been made against the rates, the committee is satisfied that they are not too low. Mr. Hepburn wanted to know if there was an appropriation in the bill for the improvement of the Eastern branch. Mr. Grout replied that the river and harbor committee had jurisdiction over that subject.

The Water Supply. Mr. Boutell of Hilmois wanted to know about the water supply. He said there were erage and in the bath, but the Potomas water now seems to be fit only for irriga-tion or fertilization. He would like to see something done to clear the water at the intake. Washington ought to be the model city of the Union, and the water supply was a worthy subject of municipal improvement. He also thought that larger appropriations should be made for sprinkling the streets. appropriations should be made for sprin-kling the streets.

When Mr. Grout concluded his explana-tion of the bill he was followed by Mr. Al-len, who yielded to Mr. Adamson of Georgia, who proceeded to make a speech

#### n the Nicaragua canal AGAINST OLEOWARGARINE.

Philadelphia Produce Dealers Urge

Passage of Grout Bill. A large delegation of Philadelphia proluce dealers and representatives of the Philadelphia produce exchange appeared before the House committee on agriculture eday in support of the Grout bill to increase the tax on colored eleomargarine to 10 cents a pound, and to make imitation dairy products subject to the laws of the state or territory into which they are transported. The delegation was composed of J. M. Davis, president of the produce exof J. M. Davis, president of the produce ex-change: Mr. B. L. Kimball, Messrs. J. S. McCulloch, E. S. Stachhouse, W. R. Brice, S. Jamison, Herbert Brown, H. S. Lesher, J. K. Cleaver, S. Moffett, W. Turner, Mc-Donald and Dr. Urquart, representing large firms in Philadelphia. The spokesmen were Messrs. Davis and Kimball, both of whom urged the importance of having a heavy urged the importance of having a heavy tax put upon oleomargarine when colored to imitate butter, in order to protect the people against fraud and the dealers in butter against dishonest competition. Both speakers said that the great margin bytween the value of butter and ole rine was a temptation to fraud. Mr. Kin rine was a temptation to fraud. Mr. Kimball expressed the opinion that 90 per cent of the oleomargarine sold in Philadelphia was sold illegally as butter. It was asserted that there was no objection to the sale of oleo as such, and that if a tax were imposed on colored oleo sufficient to equalize its value with the price got for it when sold as butter much of the fraud could be prevented. They very earnestly recommended the tax of 10 cents a pound on all oleo colored to imitate butter.

# WORK ON THE WARSHIPS.

The Albany, Kearsarge and Kentucky Are Nearest to Completion. Admiral Hichborn's latest report of the progress of the work of building up the avy shows that of the battle ships construction the Kearsarge and the Ken-

tucky at Newport News are advanced toward completion 99 per cent and 98 per cent, respectively. The Illinois at the s place stands at 75 per cent, and the Missouri has just been started. The Alabama at Cramp's is set down at 93 per cent; the Maine, at the same place, at 22 per cent, and the Wisconsin and the Ohio, at the Union iron works, at 88 per cent and 15 per

ent, respectively.

The Albany is the only one of the sheathand the Albany is the only one of the shearn-ed protected cruisers upon which any work has been done. She has been practically finished, standing at 99 per cent, but work has not begun on the Denver, Des Molnes, Chattanooga, Galveston, Tacoms and Cleve-

The four monitors are reported as follows: The Raisso, per cent; Connecticut, at Bath, 41 per cent; Florida, at Nixon's, 25 per cent, and Wyoming, at Union iron works, 43 per cent. All of the sixteen torpedo boat destroyers at last under construction, the work Cansas, at Newport New nnecticut, at Bath, 41 per Florida, at Nixon's, 25 per cent, and Wyo-ming, at Union iron works, 43 per cent. All of the sixteen torpedo boat destroyers are at last under construction, the work accomplished ranging from 85 per cent upon the Lawrence, building by the Fore River Engine Company, down to 9 per cent on the three boats in the yards of the Mary-land Steel Company. The fifteen torpedo boats are also now on the stocks or afloat, the state of the work ranging from 98 per cent in the case of the Goldsborough at Wolff & Zwicker's, to 5 per cent on the Biddle at Bath. The sub-marine boat Plunger stands at 85 per cent.

#### Capt. Jewell Reports. Theodore F. Jewell, who com

anded the cruiser Brooklyn on her recent cruise to the Philippines, has arrived in this city from the Asiatic station. He reported his return to the Secretary of the Navy this morning, and was placed on waiting orders.